

MECBC Committee Meeting

7pm, Sunday 29th November – The Bar

Minutes

Present: Emily Busvine, Abbie Vernon, Maria Rust, Nadia Blackshaw, Simona Sulikova, Laurane Saliou, Heather Dudley, Kate Wilkinson

Apologies sent by: Emma Roth, Olimpia Onelli, Ying Chow, Joaquina Delas Vives

1. Fairbairns dinner

- a. Need help with setting up – *committee can meet in the MCR at 6:30*
- b. Someone with MCR access needed to let us in - *Manuela, Olimpia, Joaquina*

2. Training camp

- a. Mimizan, France; Centre de séjours lac & ocean
- b. 12.4 – 17.4 *Need a whole day for driving each way, maybe start one day earlier*
- c. Currently asked for 20 people >> 2 crews, 2 coxes, 2 coaches; this may change, but we want as many people as possible! *Mark definitely, Robert maybe, Reana if there is space*
- d. Quote for one week's stay (including accommodation, food, transport to/from the airport/training, erg room): €4,600 (roughly £165 per person)
- e. Cheap flights to Bordeaux from around £70 – *individuals should book their own flights to avoid complications if one of the group wants to change. Some may want to drive.*
- f. Boat rental – different sizes available from €25/day (double scull) to €60/day (one of their eights) - *need to state ahead of time what boats are required*
- g. Total cost per person: around £280
- h. Ideally, sponsorship subsidy, but not guaranteed
- i. Some people might want to bring families >> it's a lakeside cabin resort with lots to do (training camp stuff is a side business)
- j. *Should confirm numbers after training week as it is more likely people will continue rowing if set in a crew*
- k. *Coxing equipment is included, so anyone can try coxing in a lake. Much easier for novice coxes to get experience.*
- l. *Possibility of getting travel grants from college should be investigated.*
- m. *On the last trip driving was as expensive as flying due to £250 ferry cost and £250 of petrol between four people.*

3. Sponsorship

- a. Metaswitch opportunity fell through; they already sponsor Clare, so they didn't think it would be useful for them to also sponsor us.

- b. If anyone knows any **grads**/parents that work in companies that might want to increase their female grad intake (tech/IT companies are usually good), please let me know, and I'm happy to get in touch with them. *Emily and Taine will continue to pursue potential sponsors – may need a change in approach as to who we target. Ying suggests banking, engineering and consulting firms.*

4. Fundraising account for ergs/repairs

- a. Substantial amount in the fundraising account
- b. Around £2,500 for 4 ergs is okay - *will have to be second hand/refurbished, but Robert is happy to help collect and may help to fix if necessary*
- c. *Concept II models D or E ideally, Maria is looking into the possibilities*
- d. £430 for Owen replacement parts is also okay - *Taken from fundraising account*
- e. **Emma, Robert would need to see our current accounts/budget proposal before he can give the green light on this**
- f. Think about logistics for ergs >> moving table tennis table; do we need mats to prevent the floor from being scratched? Talk to Chris Pope when we are in the process of buying them -*Maria to find out who table tennis table belongs to so we can ask about moving/getting rid of it -> email JCR president and Chris Pope*
- g. *Maria to get Robert to OK the ergs before we go ahead and buy them*
- h. *Need to measure up the squash courts for standing ergs up*
- i. *Wolfson have a good erg storage solution – building on right hand side as you walk into Wolfson*

5. Neptunes dinner

- a. Save-the-date needs to be sorted soon; college have also sent out emails to non-rowing alumnae >> the more people, the better -*Joaquina has done this*
- b. *Need to get an estimate of numbers – probably get between 6 and 10 alumnae who may bring partners. Abbie/Bekah/Joaquina to find out how many current members intend to come.*
- c. Document from development office for planning events (nothing new, but good to have everything on one page)
- d. Do we want speakers >> Donna/other alumnae?
- e. **Raffle:** if we want to raise money, we should try and auction off more than just Donna's kit; have people go around to shops in Cambridge/email companies; they often will donate to events for exposure! CUWBC alumnae dinner had stuff from Cath Kidston, Cambridge Satchel Company, etc.; better to start thinking about this sooner than later; raffle ticket prices? £5? *Definitely want to ask shops to donate items. Raffle tickets at a lower price so that they appeal to students*
- f. *Donnas kit to be auctioned separately*
- g. *Could relate the size of a donation to a physical item e.g. "buy the boat club a new pair of shoes"*
- h. Ticket prices: do we want to charge slightly more and make a small profit from the tickets? Not for members/coaches/President, but perhaps for the alumnae *No – it*

would be wrong to charge a different price for alumnae, may need to raise ticket price overall. **Peterhouse have a tiered price strategy – not just for alumni.**

- i. Perhaps there is a way to ask for additional donations – need to establish a clear goal to encourage donations
- j. **Abbie:** Perhaps get more white wine than red wine
- k. Plus ones are OK for Neptunes Dinner, allow people to circulate the invitation as they want. It is important to encourage parents to support the MECBC community by attending the dinner. This can be beneficial in terms of fundraising, and also support at races.

6. Novices

- a. Who is continuing? Who is good? *First boat is good; second boat has potential, but Novices haven't had enough outings to develop*
- b. Issue: lots of yellow flags this term; not very many weekend outings >> how ready are they to move up to the senior squad?
- c. Coxes: Joey and Julia Gillard are keen
- d. Concern: too many novice boats this term for the actual number of physical boats we have >> consider capping novice intake until Winston is back on the Cam. *We want to try everything we can to avoid capping intake*
- e. LBCs may need to be firmer with novices in future
- f. *Should arrange races at the start of term and let rowers know*
- g. *Handover in future should be smoother and include a degree of shadowing rather than just handover documents. Works well to designate tasks to the next committee member*
- h. **Laurane:** *tell novices that they have potential and we want them to have two outings a week (for the higher crews), maybe more at the discretion of the coach*
- i. **LBCs** include boats below W2, might be difficult to split this role between multiple people. **Laurane** will oversee the lower boats and designate tasks to captains
- j. *Could arrange "coaching to coach" sessions with current LBCs and perhaps Mark or Robert*

7. Boat repairs

- a. Octopussy >> does she need to be shipped off somewhere over the holidays? Trailing costs etc. **Laurane** to find out what Bomber intends to do about this
- b. Ying >> still in one piece, but for the future it would be better to have Winston for the novices; not much that we can do until the Combined Boathouses/Caius boathouse are built, unfortunately
- c. Dame Rosemary Murray >> Robert's recommendation: get her in good shape (sort out the footplate), then think about selling; he can get in touch with St. John's College School >> the boat is weighted for children, so it would be of more use to them than to us. Consider the going rate for used 4+ (£1,000-2,000?); if we wanted to buy a new four, we would then probably have to raise about another £2,000; if SJCS is not interested, talk to town clubs (Reana) about if they have any junior programme.

*Reasonably good condition but not right for us – consensus is to sell to children’s boat club. **Laurane** to ask Bomber about the costs of servicing.*

- d. In previous years, W2 has become a four in Michaelmas. Buying another four is something to think about in the future, but would be considerably more expensive.*
- e. Consensus is to repair, but not sell until we are in a position to replace the four*

8. Neptunes – the newsletter

- a. Who is responsible? **Maria** is still taking responsibility*
- b. Will there be a Michaelmas 2015 issue? Perhaps January 2015 if this is not possible. Yes – hopefully before Christmas*
- c. Set a date for publication*
- d. Usually Q and A from Novices about what novicing was like*
- e. Crew reports, social reports etc. *Mention future plans; appeal for sponsors; new committee article; Alumnae row article - **Emily****

9. Kit and stash ordering

- a. Should we place an order for tops and leggings now, so it arrives in time for next term? This might help us judge continuing numbers. **Kate** to establish interest in this*

10. Additional Points

- a. Reana wants to coach W3 next term*
- b. Will and Watson might need to be contacted if there is a W4*
- c. Attention should be paid to improving handover for all committee roles*